Tips for Designing in Drupal

John Albin Wilkins Drupal Taiwan – February 27, 2010



How is Drupal unique? (what to watch out for)

• Expanding/collapsing regions

• Unique Drupal-isms (menus, tabs, etc.)

 #1 issue: Drupal sites often grow after launch What can happen when a website changes after launch?

- 1. Site admin adds new functionality using contrib module.
- 2. Design FAIL. Because design was too specific.
- 3. Pay for new design work. :-(

It's easy to design specific elements.

It's challenging to design generically.

Design generically

- HTML Elements make a list of all HTML tags and style them all.
- Generic content page
- Generic block (for each region)
- Generic list of content (think Views)

Drupal-isms



Expanding/collapsing regions

• Regions only appear on a page if the region has content.

 Content column expands to take up space left by collapsed sidebar regions

Drupal 6.x	Home Beer Styles Brewers Histor	y Events Community			
Search this site:	We have a mission. We just don't know what it is.	Secondary links			
admin Code review My account Create content Feed aggregator Administer Log out Development Empty cache Enable Theme developer	Populus Jumentum Tego Vero Ibidem Persto Tru, 12/31/2009 - 18:37 – Anonymous Inde (blog) - Usitas venio macto abigo vindico paulatim. Refoveo at qui suscipere defui pala loquor sagaciter occuro. Volutpat sudo occuro. Ullamcorper oppeto nulla lucidus sudo adipiscing iusto tamen. Volutpat camur augue torqueo suscipere praemitto defui sudo. Dolore sed uxor torqueo tum turpis vicis. Capto exerci utrum dolor facilisi capto suscipere odio pecus. Abluo ullamcorper paulatim patria lobortis hos praesent acsi. Typicus importunus vindico eu sed oppeto esse importunus ulciscor.	Primary links Home Beer Styles Ale Barley Wine Lager Lambic Oktoberfestbier / Märzen Pilsner Porter/Stout Wheat beer 			
 Execute PHP Code Function reference Hook_elements() PHPinfo() 	Abico Sat, 12/26/2009 - 12:59 - chiprevovad	Other Brewers History Events			

Menu trees

Extremely common navigation style

eo nutus turpis. • <u>Home</u>

- <u>Beer Styles</u>
 - ► <u>Ale</u>
 - <u>Barley Wine</u>
 - Lager
 - <u>Lambic</u>
 - Oktoberfestbier / Märzen
 - <u>Pilsner</u>
 - Porter/Stout
 - Wheat beer
 - Other

Brewers

View/Edit tabs

(and Revision/Outline/etc tabs)

witty slogan goes here	9	
		<u>Styles Brewers Hi</u> /ine <u>Lager</u> Lambi
Home >		
Styles		
View Edit Outline	Dev load	Dev render
Submitted by Anonymous on Tu in <u>huwruch</u> <u>phegabrou</u> <u>nu</u>		9 - 12:58 leuistos <u>clukadri</u>
node (page) - Turpis modo lucio hendrerit modo causa sed. Iusto		



(navigate through a list of content)

feugiat. Meus brevitas humo ex nulla erat ille amet. Uxor cui neque praemitto amet. Sudo singularis loquor gravis hos causa.														
« first	< previous	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		next >	last »	2

Footer BS goes here. Replace with real content later.

The Basics: one more time...

- HTML Elements
- Generic page, block, content list
- Expanding/collapsing regions
- Menu trees
- View/Edit/etc Tabs
- Pager